



The Toni Times

From the Desk of Councilmember Toni Atkins



November 2002

ATKINS PROPOSES CONTINUED CCDC FUNDING FOR SENIOR HOUSING

LU&H COMMITTEE SUPPORTS PROPOSAL; INCREASES REQUEST TO \$311K

Funding for seniors, especially those living on the brink of homelessness downtown, continues to be one of my top priorities in office. That is why I'm elated that on Wednesday, November 13th, the members of the Land Use & Housing (LU&H) Committee voted unanimously to support my proposal to direct the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) to continue to fund the Transitional Housing for Displaced Seniors (THDS) program.

Last year, as part of a broad-based collaborative which included the City of San Diego, the San Diego Housing Coalition, Senior Community Services and others, CCDC agreed to allocate the \$168,000 needed to lease the 35 single room occupancy (SRO) units included in the program. This year, due to rising rental costs and the pending closure of the Capri Hotel—which will force the program to rent more rooms in the less affordable Sarah Francis Homotel—the amount needed has risen to \$191,000.

Earlier this year, City staff requested that CCDC again fund the THDS program to help house seniors in downtown SRO units leased by the San Diego Housing Commission. As the transitional housing program item came forward, funding remained uncertain. Therefore, I sent a memo to the five LU&H members and CCDC Chair Hal Sadler to propose that the funding issue be addressed, and to invite CCDC to allocate the resources necessary to keep the program alive.

Last month, Councilmember Ralph Inzunza and I held a press conference to call upon the General Services Administration to replace the 298 SRO units which have already been lost and the 100 units which will soon be

lost when the Capri closes in August 2003 in preparation for construction of the new Federal Court House building downtown. Many seniors are homeless because these units are gone. Statistics provided by Senior Community Centers clearly show that each month, more and more seniors need help meeting basic needs such as food and shelter. This being so, it is imperative that the THDS program continue to bring case management and shelter to San Diego's homeless seniors. That's why these 35 units are so vital.

At the LU&H meeting, several once-homeless seniors testified that they are not eligible for this program because there is no funding for assisted living. In response to this testimony, Councilmember Donna Frye asked that the motion include an additional \$120,000 to fund five assisted-living beds for a year. The motion passed unanimously and will now be considered by the full Council.

Closely tied to the program is Senior Community Centers, which will provide case management to seniors transitioning into more permanent housing. A long-standing member of the downtown community, Senior Community Centers has been at the forefront of serving seniors, providing such services as housing, case management, recreational activities, and meals.

I feel very strongly that members of our senior community should not be faced with living on the streets. They deserve to be heard, housed, and helped.

In This Issue

(Click on a story below to visit that page)

Proposed CCDC Funding For Senior Housing ...	1
Library Funding Receives Council Approval ...	2
Oil and Waste Recycling Nov. 23rd And Dec. 7th ...	3
New Web Page Feature Shows Residential Services ...	3
CD3 Artists Create "1 In 3" Art Project ...	3
Community Forest Initiative To Bring 330 Trees to CD3 ...	4
Photo Gallery ...	4

COUNCIL APPROVES FINANCING PLAN FOR LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

FOUR DISTRICT THREE PROJECTS INCLUDED

A plan to pay for improvements throughout San Diego's library system, including construction of the new Main Library and 23 new or expanded branch libraries, was passed by an 8-1 vote of the City Council on Monday, November 18.

A wide range of Projects in District 3 were included in the council action. They are:

- A new 25,000 square foot library in the North Park area;
- A new 15,000 square foot library in the Hillcrest/Mission Hills area;
- A 2,318 square foot expansion of the Kensington/Normal Heights library; and
- \$250,000 to conduct a feasibility study of the Normal School building in University Heights to determine if it can be converted to library space or other public use.

The approved \$312 million financing plan will pay for the library projects through a combination of lease revenue bonds, Redevelopment Agency contributions, developer fees, grants and private contributions. The lease revenue



The council funding action includes \$250,000 for a study to determine the feasibility of converting the Normal School building into the University Heights Branch Library.

bonds will be paid off through a combination of the City's share of the tobacco settlement and TOT funds.

As part of the financing plan, \$14 million will be dedicated to the North Park Library. Site acquisition is planned for mid 2004. Design work will begin in late 2004. Construction will begin in mid 2007 and be completed in the fall of 2008.

Since a site has already been identified and some design work has already been done on the Hillcrest/Mission Hills branch, site acquisition will be scheduled for 2003.

Library design and demolition of buildings on the proposed site is scheduled to be completed in 2005 with construction beginning in late 2005. It is anticipated that the \$10 million Hillcrest/Mission Hills library will open mid 2007.



A 2,328 square foot expansion of the Kensington/Normal Heights Branch Library is part of the library funding plan approved by Council.

The design work for the Kensington/Normal Heights Branch Library is slated to be completed in 2005, with construction of the \$2.5 million expansion being completed in 2007.

Funds for the feasibility study for the Normal School building in University Heights will be available in July of 2003.

If the improvements are implemented as planned, library space in District 3 will increase from its current 32,767 square feet to 55,917 square feet. Citywide, library space will be increased from its current 474,722 square feet to 940,686 square feet.

OIL AND WASTE RECYCLING NOV. 23RD AND DEC. 7TH

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RECYCLE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

For all of you “at-home mechanics” out there who have been diligently saving your oil and oil filters, antifreeze and auto batteries for the first chance to recycle these hazardous materials, you have two opportunities over the next few weeks to clear them out of your garage or storage bins.

Sponsored by the City of San Diego and the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the two oil and auto waste recycling collection events will be held from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Sat., Nov. 23rd, and Sat., Dec. 7th.

The November 23rd event will be held at the School of Creative and Performing Arts, 2425 Dusk Drive (between Alta View Drive and Parkside Avenue) in the Paradise Hills neighborhood. The December 7th event will be held at Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road, in Section J of the parking lot.

The maximum that you can drop off is 10 gallons, and please note that no business waste is accepted. Accepted items are oil and oil filters, antifreeze and auto batteries.

For more information call (858) 694-7000.

NEW WEB PAGE FEATURE LETS YOU ACCESS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

An exciting new feature was recently added to our District Three web page that allows you to locate residential services near where you live, work, shop and play.

This feature offers the location of schools, “Six to Six” after-school programs, libraries, park, recreation centers, recycling centers, fire stations, and can even indicate the refuse collection days for any neighborhood in the City. Additionally, the site provides maps detailing the borders of local City Council, State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional districts.

Simply log on to the home page of our District Three web page (<http://genesis.sannet.gov/infospc/templates/cd3/index.jsp>) and click on the large, circular “District Three Map” icon. Once on the map page, enter an address or intersection, and an enlarged map will appear showing you the location of residential services located near that address in the City of San Diego.

Try it out! I think you’ll enjoy this fun and informative addition to our web page.

DISTRICT ARTISTS CREATE ‘1 IN 3’ ART PROJECT FOR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER



District Three Artists worked together to create the “1 In 3” art project in celebration of the opening of the Family Justice Center. Each artist created three panels, two depicting happy homes, and one depicting a home affected by domestic violence. The project is representative of the fact that one in three American families is affected by domestic violence. Pictured above are some of the panels created by three different artists.

The artists, all District Three residents, include Dorothy Annette, Mirto Golino, James Watts, Antonia “Toni” Barros, Claudia Fernety, Luz Camacho, and Jim Hammond. The panels hung in City Hall in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 14, 2002. They will hang permanently at the Family Justice Center on 707 Broadway.

DISTRICT 3 TO GET 330 TREES IN FIRST YEAR OF COMMUNITY FOREST INITIATIVE

34 TREES PLANTED IN CHEROKEE POINT AS PART OF NOV. 16TH ARBOR DAY KICKOFF

Earlier this year, the Mayor and City Council officially approved the Community Forest Initiative, a citywide program designed to plant 5,000 trees per year on public property for the next 20 years.

As part of this initiative, approximately 330 trees, valued at \$60,000, will be planted in Council District 3 in the first year of the program. The first year's trees are slated for South Park, City Heights, University Heights and in the CD3 Business Improvement Districts. Each year, the plan is to focus on planting trees in different communities in each of the eight council districts.

On Saturday, November 16th, the City hosted a Citywide Arbor Day as a celebratory kick-off for the Community Forest Initiative. Each council district hosted and participated in a tree planting. We held ours in the Cherokee Point neighborhood of City Heights, and volunteers from the neighborhood association, Urban Corps and the District Three staff came together to plant 34 trees on a beautiful, but very hot autumn day.

I have pledged to make infrastructure and improving our older urban neighborhoods top priorities while I'm in

office. I firmly believe the Community Forest Initiative will aid in our efforts to meet this pledge and improve the quality of life for the residents of Council District 3.



Councilmember Atkins and Mayor Murphy, joined by Urban Corps members, at the Arbor Day tree planting in Cherokee Point.

The growing of a community forest has tremendous positive impacts on the quality of life of those who live in the City. Trees protect our water, they save on energy, they improve our air and they even protect and extend the life of our streets. With such beneficial impacts, it is impossible not to embrace the idea of a community forest and promote its potential.

I'll keep you posted on future tree plantings in the district.



October was declared Homeless Awareness Month with the help of representatives from the San Diego Housing Federation, Senior Community Centers, Uptown Faith Community Services Centers, San Diego Organizing Project, and the Veterans' Association.

Photo Gallery



Councilmember Atkins and Councilmember Byron Wear, with (at left) the unidentified driver of the Civis Advanced Technology Vehicle. The Civis vehicle is an example of the type of specialized bus that will be used on the El Cajon Boulevard Transit Showcase Project under development by MTDB.



Councilmember Atkins celebrates "Laura LiMandri Day" by planting a tree with Ms. LiMandri at the Kensington/Normal Heights Branch Library. The tree was dedicated by People For Trees in honor of Laura's commitment to community revitalization through tree plantings.

Councilmember Atkins presents the Domestic Violence Awareness Resolution at Council with the help of Councilmember Donna Frye. Also honoring the day are City Attorneys, artists of the "1 In 3" art project, and victims of domestic violence.

